

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 44-63 are pending in the case. Claims 1-23 were originally filed in the case, claims 24-43 were previously cancelled, and claims 44-63 were previously added. Claims 24-43 were canceled responsive to a restriction requirement. The Office rejected each of claims 1-23 and 44-63 as follows:

- claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-15, 17-22, 44-48, 50-54, 56-58, and 60-63 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over United States Letters Patent 5,517,414 (“Hrovat”) in view of United States Letters Patent 4,898,257 (“Brandstadter”);
- claims 6, 12, 16, 49, 55, and 59 were rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hrovat in view of Brandstadter and United States Letters Patent 6,481,801 (“Krueger”); and
- claim 23 was rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hrovat in view of Brandstadter and United States Letters Patent 5,762,407 (“Stacey et al.”).

Applicant traverses each of the rejections and has taken them on appeal.

In the course of preparing the “Appeal Brief”, Applicants noticed for the first time some clerical errors in the language of several claims. Applicants seek to amend those claims herein to put them in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants request entry of the above amendments.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4053 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON
10333 Richmond Dr., Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 934-4053 ph

/Jeffrey A. Pyle/

Jeffrey A. Pyle
Reg. No. 34,904
Attorney for Applicant